

The Jewish Roots of the Church

Introduction: The great deception of the last days.
Matthew 24:4-5

God has eternally attached Himself to the Jewish people in His revelation to man. Look at the Names of God:

- The God of Israel
- The God of Jacob
- The Holy One of Israel
- The God of Jerusalem
- The King of Zion
- The Shepherd of Israel

Israel has a unique calling that is irrevocable and eternal!

- Isaiah 43:21
- Psalms 94:14
- Malachi 3:6

The end-times are focused upon Israel.

Example: Revelation 21:10-14

Confusion about the identity of the church is rampant!

Unraveling the confusion

- Jews belong to a physical, ethnic group of people that trace their ancestry back to the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Gentiles belong to all the physical groups that cannot trace their ancestry back to the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Christians belong to a spiritual body [church] of true believers (Jews and Gentiles) in Jesus Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 10:32- *“Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.”*

Let us examine two Biblical facts about the Jewish identity of the church:

1- The Jewish Origins of the Church

- Acts 2- It began in 30 AD at the Jewish feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem.
- Acts 2-9- For the first 7 years of the church, the makeup of the church was totally Jewish. They focused on Jerusalem and Judea (Acts 1:8).
- Jerusalem was the hub of the church for the first 14 years (30-44 AD)
- Acts 13- It was not until 48 AD that the predominately Gentile church in Antioch began to be a predominate voice in the early church.

Romans 11:11-24- the illustration of the olive tree

2.- The Jewish Message of the Church

- For the first 15 years of the church, they had no N.T. Scriptures!
- James was the first N.T. book, written about 45 AD.
- The other 26 N.T. books were written over the next 50 years and were passed around the churches as individual scrolls, while copies were made.
- The recognition of all 27 books as the New Testament did not come until 300 years later at the end of the 4th century.

A. The Bible is a Jewish book.

Romans 3:2

Exception:

B. The Message of the Church must be an extension of the message of

the Jewish apostles!

- Ephesians 2:11-22
- 1 John 4:6- *“We are of God: he that knows God hears us; he that is not of God does not hear us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”*
- 2 Peter 3:1-3
- Galatians 1:6-10

C. The Heart of the Apostle’s Doctrine

- Jesus is the predicted Messiah of the Old Testament.
- The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The salvation based upon faith in Christ alone.
- The Messianic hope- including prophetic end-times.

Matthew 16:13-18- The recognition of Jesus as Messiah and the Son of God is at the heart of the message and mission of the church.

Application: Where is the church today?